

DOE Weekly Field Memo – April 29, 2009

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(ARRA) IDEA-B/ARRA Funds Conference Call: Question & Answer Opportunity

Audience: Special Education Administrators, Superintendents and Principals

A Q&A opportunity with department staff is scheduled for **Thursday, April 30, from 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.** Karin Edwards, Rae Ann Knopf and Margaret Schelley will be fielding questions regarding the IDEA ARRA funds. They will answer as many questions as time allows. **This call is ONLY for Special Education Administrators, Principals and Superintendents.** Please [review the IDEA ARRA memo](#) that was sent last week as you consider questions. To send questions in advance of the call, e-mail karin.edwards@state.vt.us. NOTE: There will be another call scheduled in a month when guidance is updated. For more information on ARRA, visit:

http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/recovery_act.html#g_and_a

Contact: Sabine Baldwin at sabine.baldwin@state.vt.us for the conference call phone number and passcode, or ask your local special education administrator

(ARRA) Clarification from the Commissioner Regarding Statewide Student Information Systems

Audience: All

From Commissioner Vilaseca: The department is exploring the feasibility of implementing a statewide student information system as part of a competitive grant opportunity from the USDOE under ARRA. In order to secure funds to meet the assurances, the commissioner must apply for funds under ARRA Title XIII, Institute of Education Sciences, for the purpose of creating a student information system serving each supervisory union, member district and regional technical education district. We realize that some districts and supervisory unions are currently looking to purchase information systems for special education or for all students. We encourage you to consider holding off on this purchase if possible. In a few weeks the USDOE should be releasing a timeline for this grant process and we will provide an update at that time in future field memos.

Contact: Lisa Gauvin, IT Director, at lisa.gauvin@state.vt.us

Vermont Alternate Assessment (VAA) Scoring Institute Application

Audience: Case Managers, General and Special Educators, Related Service Providers, Support Staff and Administrators

The VAA Scoring Institute will be held from July 20 – July 24, 2009 at the Holiday Inn in Rutland. Applicants must have attended a VAA training in Spring 2009 in order to be considered eligible. Applications are due to the Department of Education no later than May 15th. For more information and to register online, go to http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm_alternate.html#training_info.

Contact: Cyndie Moran at (802) 828-0646 or cindy.moran@state.vt.us

Reminder: Advanced Placement (AP) Fee Reduction Grant for 2009

Principals, Superintendents, Curriculum Coordinators

Once again, Vermont has been awarded an AP Fee Reduction Grant. The purpose of this grant is to pay all AP fees on behalf of eligible low-income students who are enrolled in an AP course, and plan to take an AP exam. For information on qualifications for eligibility, fees covered, and changes for the 2009 year, visit: http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm_curriculum/enrichment.html#AP_grant.

Contact: Noel Bryant at (802) 828-0215 or noel.bryant@state.vt.us

From the Department of Health:

Swine Flu School Nurse Advisory

Audience: Administrators, School Nurses

This week the Department of Health sent out a school health advisory to school nurses regarding the swine influenza. This memo can also be viewed at <http://healthvermont.gov/advisory/index.aspx>. At this time, there are no cases of swine influenza in Vermont. Contact the Vermont Department of Health at (802) 863-7240 or (800) 640-4374 for further information. For more information about swine flu, visit the Vermont Department of Health Web site <http://healthvermont.gov> or <http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu>.

Department of Health School Nurse Liaisons

Audience: Administrators, School Nurses

The State of Vermont school nurse consultant resides at the Department of Health. Currently school nurse liaisons have been assigned to specific supervisory union regions to provide technical assistance to school nurses. For a list of those liaisons visit

http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm_health_services.html#nurse_liaison.

Contact: Emily Pastore, School Nurse Consultant, at (802) 479-4200 or epastor@vdh.state.vt.us.

From the Vermont State Parks:

ATTENTION STUDENTS: Venture Vermont 2009 Outdoor Challenge

Audience: Students, Physical Education Teachers, Guidance Counselors

You and your family can spend the season outside and earn points for visiting beautiful places and doing fun things. Points are awarded for doing activities like riding bikes, climbing trees, having a tent set up race or learning how to tie a new knot. You don't have to do these activities in a state park – they can be done anywhere! If you earn 250 points you will be awarded a Silver VIP Pass to Vermont State Parks. With it you can come back to Vermont State Parks for the rest of this year and all of next year for free day entry. All you need to do is download a score sheet, keep track of all your points, document your activities by taking photos and send them back! To get started, download a score sheet today by going to <http://www.vtstateparks.com> and clicking on the Venture Vermont icon. Visit:

<http://www.vtstateparks.com/html/VentureVermont2009.cfm>

Contact: Vermont State Parks at (802) 241-3655 or <http://vtstateparks.com>.

Weekly Field Memo is Online!

The DOE Weekly Field Memo is archived on the Department of Education Web site at http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/field_memo.html. Field Memos and the corresponding attachments are available for download. For Field Memo information three months or older, or for other questions, please contact Jill Remick, communications director, at (802) 828-3154 or jill.remick@state.vt.us.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

For the Department of Education Web site see: <http://education.vermont.gov/>. For upcoming events or professional development opportunities, see the DOE Calendar of Events located at: <http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/calendar.html>.

Main Department Line: (802) 828-3135

NOTE: For comments or questions specific to the messages above, please contact the person listed. DO NOT reply to this message.

This Field Memo is posted weekly by the Department of Education to better organize our e-communications to the field. There may be times when separate messages from the department will still be sent.